

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00 OC-06

CCO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 EUR-12

ACDA-07 MMO-01 TRSE-00 /105 W
----- 007540

O R 031741Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 814

INFO ANEMBASSY BOGOTA 3105

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PE ELAB

SUBJECT: LIMA DISTURBANCES ABATED

REF: LIMA 6064, LIMA 6067, LIMA 6076, LIMA 6079, LIMA 6085

1. LIMA PASSED ANOTHER QUIET NIGHT JULY 2-3
UNDER THE VIGILANCE OF TROOPS AND ARMORED VEHICLES.
GOP NOW ACKNOWLEDGES ARREST OF OVER 300 PERSONS.
IN THE PROVINCIAL TOWNS HUANCAYO AND AYACUCHO SOME
DISTURBANCES BROKE OUT JULY 2. WE HAVE HEARD THAT
TWO BRIDGES WERE BLOWN IN HUANCAYO. ACCORDING TO
GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS, AGITATORS "CREATED ALARM"
IN HUANCAYO MARKETS, VEHICLES WERE OVERTURNED
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AND SHOP WINDOWS SMASHED. PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT

STUDENTS CAUSED PROPERTY DAMAGE IN AYACUCHO AND USED LARGE STONES TO BLOCK THOROUGHFARES. MEANWHILE THE DAILY LA PRENSA PRAISED APRISTA SUGAR WORKERS FOR PUTTING IN A FULL WORKDAY IRRESPECTIVE OF GOP DECLARATION THAT JULY 2 WAS A NON-WORKING DAY.

2. THE GOP HAS ISSUED NO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ON THE FORCED CLOSURE OF LIMA WEEKLY MAGAZINES. LIMA RADIO HOWEVER ANNOUNCED JULY 3 THAT INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES CARRIED STORY ON GOP CLOSURE OF SEVERAL WEEKLIES FOR "ALTERING THE PUBLIC ORDER" AND LA PRENSA REPORTED JULY 3 THAT "ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL INFORMATION" TWELVE LIMA WEEKLIES WERE CLOSED BY GOP JULY 2. EL COMERCIO CARRIED REPORT TODAY THAT CLOSURE MAY BE TEMPORARY, SUBJECT TO FURTHER GOP STUDY. ISMAEL FRIAS, DIRECTOR OF EQUIS X, PROTESTED THIS MEASURE IN A DECLARATION TO LA PRESNSA STATING THAT PERU'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE WOULD BE DAMAGED AT A TIME WHEN THE COUNTRY NEEDS THE "GOODWILL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY".

3. THE EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF MOTIVATION BEHIND DRASTIC ACTION - PARTICULARLY IF WEEKLIES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO RESUME PUBLICATION SOON - WHICH SUGGESTS A RETURN TO HARSH GOP PRESS POLICY OF THE DAY OF FORMER PRESIDENT VELASCO. WE SPECULATE THAT IT MAY, INTER ALIA, HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET AIR FORCE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF AND A POSSIBLE SOVIET AIRCRAFT SALE. IN CURIOUS FOOTNOTE TO PRESS DECISIONS EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM A WELL-INFORMED POLITICAL SOURCE THAT GOP HAS FORBIDDEN PRESS SUPPLEMENTS ON U.S. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

4. SOURCE CLOSE TO FORMER PRESIDENT BELAUNDE TOLD EMBOFF NIGHT OF JULY 2-3 THAT BELAUNDE FEELS HIS DEPORTATION TO BE IMMINENT AND HAS PREPARED A DEPARTURE STATEMENT. OTHER DEPORTATIONS ARE ALSO SAID TO BE IMMINENT, ALTHOUGH SAME SOURCE CLAIMED THAT A "BATTLE ROYAL" ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES IS RAGING BETWEEN INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS AND PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO. OTHER SOURCES ALSO CLAIM THAT HEATED DEBATE TAKING PLACE IN HIGH GOP COUNCILS.
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5. EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED FROM EYE-WITNESSES THAT AT LEAST SOME GROUPS ENGAGED IN JULY 1 DISTURBANCES WERE LED BY DISCIPLINED YOUTHS UTILIZING AGREED-UPON SIGNALS. THESE GROUPS MELTED AWAY UPON APPEARANCE OF POLICE OR SOLDIERS BUT RE-FORMED TO RESUME AGITATION WHEN SECURITY FORCES MOVED ON.

6. THE MOSCOW-LINE CGTP UNION HAS NOW ISSUED COMMUNIQUE SEVERELY CRITICIZING ECONOMIC MEASURES BUT CONDEMNING VIOLENCE WHICH IT CLAIMS WAS FOMENTED BY "REACTIONARY (POLITICAL) PARTIES DEDICATED TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF SEDITION AND CHAOS".

7. MOST SERIOUS VISIBLE PROBLEM REMAINS MICOR-BUS AND TRUCKER STRIKE. A MINISTRY OF FOOD COMMUNIQUE CLAIMS NORMAL SUPPLY AND GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF FOODSTUFFS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE MINISTRY CALLS UPON PUBLIC TO REFRAIN FROM HOARDING. PEOPLE, HOWEVER, ARE NOT TAKING THIS ADVICE AND EXTREMELY LONG LINES HAVE AGAIN FORMED JULY 3 AT LIMA'S STATE-RUN SUPERMARKETS. LA PRENSA TODAY REPORTS JULY 2 SALES AT THESE SUPERMARKETS WERE FIVE TIMES NORMAL SALES. MEANWHILE VENDORS AT OPEN MARKETS ARE SELLING AT EXORBITANT PRICES.

8. PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ HAS NOT APPEARED IN PUBLIC TO REASSURE THE POPULACE OR TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH STRIKING WORKERS AS HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST. SOME SOURCES REPORT THAT PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO AND INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS ARE THE MAJOR PROTAGONISTS IN GOP DELIBERATIONS ON THE CRISIS. PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ DOES NOT SEEM TO BE EXERCISING STRONG LEADERSHIP.
DEAN

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